

# TRIBUTARY



Water Education and Conservation Newsletter

Winter 2003

## 2003 Water Use Summary

*By Ann Merrill, Engineer, DWRe*

Now that summer is over and water use through the summer has been quantified, the citizens of Utah should be congratulated for a fourth year of increased water savings. The message of water conservation is obviously being heard and the outlook for the future water supply looks better with each year of decreased water use.

The population of Utah is expected to almost double by the year 2050. Along with this extraordinary growth comes an increased demand on the municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply, making water conservation a necessity. The Division of Water Resources has made the water conservation effort a top priority. A goal has been set by the Division to reduce per capita M&I water demand by 25 percent by the year 2050. This would mean a decrease from 321 gallons per capita per day (gpcd), the 1995 baseline water use, to 241 gpcd. This is a reasonable goal considering the average for Rocky Mountain States is 245 gpcd.

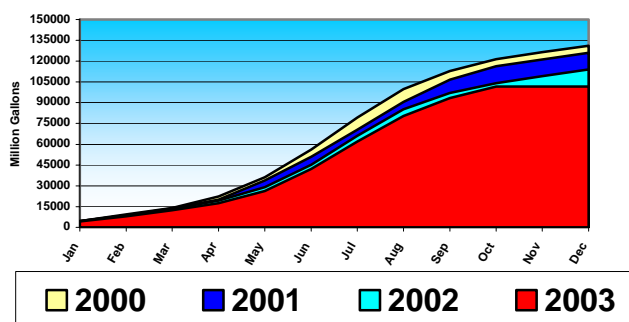
In an attempt to monitor the effectiveness of the Governor's Water Conservation Team campaign and local water conservation campaigns, the Division has been collecting water use data from 16 water agencies throughout the state. Participation in the study is voluntary and the accuracy of the results depends on the quality of the data received from the agencies.

From water use data collected from the participating agencies for the years 2000 to 2003, a water conservation trend is evident. Figure 1 shows the cumulative water use throughout the year for the past 4 years. Each successive year has shown a decrease in water use due to the incredible public response to requests to reduce water.

The year-end totals show a 3 percent decrease in statewide water use from 2000 to 2001 and a 9 percent decrease from 2001 to 2002. That's a total of a 12 percent decrease in water use in just two years! This year, water use continues to decrease. Although we haven't yet finished 2003, as of November 1<sup>st</sup>, statewide conservation is at 2 percent. The 2 percent conserved this year is a respectable decrease considering the extremely hot and dry summer and fall seasons.

The decrease in conservation this year compared to last year has much to do with the hot and dry conditions in October. The average high temperature at the Salt Lake airport in October of 2003 was 71 degrees with a total precipitation of .16 inches. In October of 2002 the average high temperature was 61 degrees with a total

Comparison of State Water Use  
for 2000 to 2003



precipitation of .71 inches. To understand the severity of these conditions, consider that the thirty-year average high temperature for October is 64 degrees with a normal precipitation of 1.57 inches. These numbers indicate a substantial departure from normal conditions. Even with the extreme conditions, the state was still able to use less water than last year.

The overall numbers are quite impressive. From 1995 to November 1st, 2003 the state has decreased water use by about 23 percent. This 23 percent decrease can be attributed to both the public's conservation efforts and the response to the ongoing drought. The final numbers will be slightly different considering the fact that the entire state has not participated in this study, however the Division of Water Resources can get a good idea of how the state is doing. A continued effort made to conserve water by the citizens of Utah, even during the wettest of years, will allow Utah to thrive as a growing community and continue to enjoy its precious water resources.

## 2004 Poster Contest

**By Rick Webster, Water Education Coordinator, DWRe**

As the Holiday season approaches we are busy working on the 2003-2004 Young Artists' Water Education Poster Contest. The contest has gone through some drastic changes this year, including the following:



1. The contest will be for the *fourth grade only*.
2. The contest will run January 5<sup>th</sup> thru February 28<sup>th</sup>.
3. The state has been divided into 11 river basins. Schools will only compete with other schools within the same basin.
4. Only one poster will be accepted from each school.
5. The winner from each basin will receive a \$125 savings bond.
6. The school from which the basin winner is chosen will receive \$125.
7. The basin winners as well as the their teacher and principal will be honored at a banquet.

8. A grand prizewinner will be selected from among the 11 basin winners. They will receive a week's stay on a 59 ft admiral houseboat on Lake Powell.
9. The posters will be judged first on concept and secondly on artistic ability.
10. The posters will range in size from 11x17 to 22x28 including the mat.
11. Every student that participates will receive a certificate.

We are excited about the changes. We believe that by working within the student's curriculum we will be able to turn the contest into an extension activity related to what they are learning, thereby creating a wiser water user. Please contact me with any questions at [rickwebster@utah.gov](mailto:rickwebster@utah.gov) or 801-538-7299.

## Calendar of Events

Please visit our Events Calendar located at [www.conservewater.utah.gov/calendar](http://www.conservewater.utah.gov/calendar).



**Jan 13 – 15, 2004**

### 2004 Utah Green Industry Conference

Three days of conference in St. George with the theme "Dealing With Challenging Times." Sponsored by the Utah Nursery & Landscape Association and Utah State University. For more information, contact the UNLA at 801-484-4426.

**Mar 3 – 4, 2004**

### Utah Water Conservation Forum Annual Conference

This year's UWCF Conference will be combined with the Utah Water Conservation Coordinators Conference. Topics this year will include Smart Water Application Technology, Water Pricing, and Media Relations. For more information, contact Molly at 801-538-7254.

